

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

10/730,341

Examiner

Lars A. Olson

Applicant(s)

EAD ET AL.

Art Unit

3617

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to the amendment received from the applicant on March 13, 2007.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 6-12.
3. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
 5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO/SB/08), Paper No./Mail Date _____
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413), Paper No./Mail Date _____
7. ☐ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____

Reasons for Allowance

1. An amendment was received from the applicant on March 13, 2007.
2. Claims 1-5 have been canceled.
3. Claims 6-12 are allowed.
4. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance. The apparatus for deploying and recovering a towed line array as claimed is not shown or suggested in the prior art because of the use of an apparatus that is comprised of a cylindrical drum that is disposed within a vehicle for spooling a towed line array, an electric motor that operates to rotate said drum, an electro-mechanical winding guide that is synchronized in movement with said drum for guiding and retaining said array in a slidable manner, a plurality of stationary winding guides that are disposed within said vehicle for guiding said array, and a reverse thruster that is joined at an end of said array outside of said vehicle for propelling said array away from said vehicle.
5. The prior art as disclosed by Wood (US 5,119,751) shows the use of an apparatus for deploying and recovering a towed line array from a vehicle, said apparatus being comprised of a cylindrical drum located within said vehicle, an electric motor for rotating said drum, a winding guide that is synchronized in movement with said drum for guiding said array, and an external guide tube through which said array is guided. Loughnan (US 2,404,266) discloses an apparatus for deploying a cable from a vessel, said apparatus being comprised of a cylindrical drum for spooling a cable, a motor for rotating said drum, and a reverse thruster that is attached to one end of said

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cable for propelling said cable away from said vessel. Newly cited reference by Wood (US 5,263,431) discloses as prior art an apparatus that is comprised of a cylindrical drum within a vehicle for storing a cable, a winding guide with a motor for guiding said cable to and from said drum, and a guide tube within said vehicle for guiding said cable. Therefore, none of the prior art cited shows or suggests the use of an apparatus for deploying and recovering a towed line array, said apparatus being comprised of a cylindrical drum that is disposed within a vehicle for spooling a towed line array, an electric motor that operates to rotate said drum, an electro-mechanical winding guide that is synchronized in movement with said drum for guiding and retaining said array in a slidable manner, a plurality of stationary winding guides that are disposed within said vehicle for guiding said array, and a reverse thruster that is joined at an end of said array outside of said vehicle for propelling said array away from said vehicle.

Conclusion

6. Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

7. Any inquiry concerning this communication from the examiner should be directed to Exr. Lars Olson whose telephone number is (571) 272-6685.

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March 19, 2007

LARS A. OLSON
PRIMARY EXAMINER

Lars Olson
3/19/07